

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JERUSA 00753 151050Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----116871 151055Z /11

O 150954Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 518
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 753

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, LE, IS, XF
SUBJ: ISRAELI OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, MARCH 15

1. UN SOURCE REPORTED THAT IDF LIAISON OFFICER LEVINSON HAD INFORMED UNTSO MORNING MARCH 15 THAT IDF DOES NOT CONSIDER LEBANESE INCURSION TO BE "SHORT TERM" OPERATION BECAUSE LEBANESE CHRISTIAN FORCES ARE NOT CAPABLE OF KEEPING LEFTISTS OUT OF VICINITY OF ADL. LEVINSON REPORTEDLY TOLD UNTSO THAT IDF WILL STAY SOUTH OF TYRE. UNTSO SOURCE BELIEVES THAT IDF WANTS TO AVOID DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH SYRIAN FORCES ALTHOUGH SOME SAIQA FORCES HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY ALREADY BEEN ENCOUNTERED BY IDF.

2. ACCORDING TO UN SOURCE, ISRAELI FORCES HAVE NOW TAKEN NAQUORA, BINT JBAIL, MAROUN ER RAS AND ARE ATTACKING KHIAM. IDF HAS TOLD UNTSO THAT NO LANDING TOOK PLACE NEAR TYRE. UNTSO INFORMATION IS THAT 6 IDF SHIPS HAVE FIRED ON TYRE AND ON REFUGEE CAMPS AROUND TYRE.
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3. REPORTS FROM UNMO'S DO NOT INDICATE ANY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE AGAINST ISRAELI AIRCRAFT. ISRAELI FORCES TOOK OVER OP RAS AT 6:40 LOCAL MARCH 15 AND EVICTED UNMO'S. AS OF 11:00 LOCAL, WHEREABOUTS OF TWO UNMO'S AT OP RAS (US AND CANADIAN) ARE UNKNOWN. UNTSO IS IN RADIO CONTACT WITH NAQUORA AND LEARNED THAT IDF FORCES, AFTER TAKING OVER NAQUORA

(JERUSALEM 751), HAVE DELIBERATELY DESTROYED SOME BUILDINGS
IN UN COMPOUND INCLUDING UN GARAGE AND MESS HALL. UNTSO ASSUMES
THAT THIS WAS DONE BECAUSE BUILDINGS WERE ALSO USED BY
PLO GUARDS.

4. COMMENT: OUR SOURCE INDICATES THAT UNTSO EXPECTS
IN RESPONSE TO IDF INTENTION TO STAY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON,
THERE WILL BE AUTOMATIC REACTION IN NEW YORK THAT UN
PEACE-KEEPING FORCE WILL BE PROPOSED FOR SOUTHERN LEBANON.
NEWLIN

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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